



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

July 06, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Pursuant to the Public Space Naming Amendment Act of 2016 (D.C. Law 21-161; D.C. Official Code §9-204.01), the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) is requesting the DC Council officially designate the school in square 2806 0814 bounded by 14th Street NW, Gallatin St NW, and Farragut St NW as John Lewis Elementary School to honor John Lewis, the American politician, statesman, and civil rights leader and activist.

John Lewis fulfilled many key roles in the civil rights movement. In 1961, Lewis was one of 13 original Freedom Riders who challenged segregated facilities at interstate bus terminals in the South, facing horrific violence and bringing international attention to the civil rights movement. In 1963, Lewis was elected chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). That same year, Lewis was one of the "Big Six" leaders who helped organize the March on Washington, where he was the youngest speaker. In 1965, Lewis led the first of three Selma to Montgomery marches across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In an incident known as Bloody Sunday, state troopers and police attacked the marchers. Lewis and several others were severely injured at the hands of police. Lewis was elected to Congress in 1986 and served 17 terms in U.S. House of Representatives.

In September 2020, the District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) working group published its recommendations as to what District assets, including schools, should be removed, renamed, or contextualized. Among the group's recommendations, was that West Education Campus be renamed. Joseph Rodman West was a United States Senator, Union general in the United States Army, and chief executive of the District of Columbia. As a commander, he gave the order to torture and murder Apache chief Mangas Coloradas, who had come to meet with him to discuss terms of peace.

DCPS finds that John Lewis, a lifelong champion for justice, is a far superior role model for students in the nation's capital. Despite numerous attacks, injuries, and arrests, Lewis remained a devoted advocate of the civil rights movement and nonviolence. His legacy paved the way for the rich diversity of our school district. Therefore, I urge the Council to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

I am available to discuss any questions you may have regarding this matter. In order to facilitate a response to your questions, please have your staff contact Alyssa Noth, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, DC Public Schools, at alyssa.noth@k12.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser

Enclosure


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this act may be cited as the "John Lewis Elementary School Designation Act of 2021."

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 422 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01 and 9-204.22) ("Act"), and notwithstanding section 422(a) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(a)), the Council officially designates the school in Square 2806, Lot 0814, at 4300 13th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011 as John Lewis Elementary School.

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Mayor, the District of Columbia Public Schools, and the Office of the Surveyor.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

33 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
34 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review
35 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
36 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the
37 District of Columbia Register.


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Fitzroy Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Fitzroy Lee
Interim Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: June 3, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – John Lewis Elementary School Designation Act of 2021

REFERENCE: Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 24, 2021

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 budget and proposed fiscal year 2022 budget through fiscal year 2025 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) Working Group published recommendations¹ in August of 2020 on what District assets, including schools, should be renamed to align with the District's values. Included in those recommendations is renaming West Education Campus.² The bill officially redesignates West Education Campus as the John Lewis Elementary School.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 budget and proposed fiscal year 2022 budget through fiscal year 2025 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

¹ See: <https://mayor.dc.gov/dcfaces>

² Located at 4300 13th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "John Lewis Elementary School Designation Act of 2021," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 24, 2021

West Education Campus is currently in the process of receiving a full modernization. The fiscal year 2021 capital budget includes \$35.9 million to perform this modernization. Costs associated with purchasing new signage at the school are already included in the project's capital budget.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Legal Counsel Division



MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronan Gulstone
Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

FROM: Brian K. Flowers
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

DATE: May 27, 2021

RE: John Lewis Elementary School Designation Act of 2021
(AE-21-904)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the legislation entitled the “John Lewis Elementary School Designation Act of 2021” and determined that it is legally sufficient.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 724-5524.

Brian K. Flowers

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